

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

- 1 1. A method for the catalytic conversion of an
2 organic carbonate to a corresponding alcohol
3 comprising:
4 contacting the organic carbonate with an alcohol
5 and/or water in the presence of a zinc supported
6 catalyst.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the zinc
2 supported catalyst comprises a support material which
3 is selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃,
4 MgO, TiO₂, ZrO₂, Cr₂O₃, C and mixtures thereof.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the zinc
2 supported catalyst is formed by a method comprising
3 impregnating the support material with a zinc salt or
4 a metallic or organometallic species.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the zinc
2 supported catalyst is formed by a method comprising
3 co-kneading or co-precipitating a zinc salt with the
4 salt of another metal.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the zinc
2 supported catalyst is calcinated at a temperature in
3 the range of from 200 °C to 800 °C.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the alcohol is
2 selected from the group consisting of an aromatic
3 (C₅-C₉) alcohol and an aliphatic C₁-C₃₀ alcohol.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the aromatic
2 alcohol comprises phenol.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the aliphatic
2 alcohol is a saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₁₀-
3 alkylalcohol.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the organic
2 carbonate is selected from the group consisting
3 of dialkyl carbonate, diaryl carbonate,

4 alkylaryl carbonate, and arylalkyl carbonate,
5 wherein the alkyl and/or aryl groups may be
6 linked together.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio
2 between water and alcohol is in the range of
3 from 1:1 to 1:100.